FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1201 JEFFERSON STREET
MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN 49441

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fccmuskegon.org

REV. DR. BECKY EMERSON + SENIOR MINISTER

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
NOVEMBER 29, 2026

WELCOME & COMMUNITY NEWS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

Partita on VOM HIMMEL HOCH: Chorale, I, II, & III, Arr. by Raymond Haan

GATHERING PRAYER

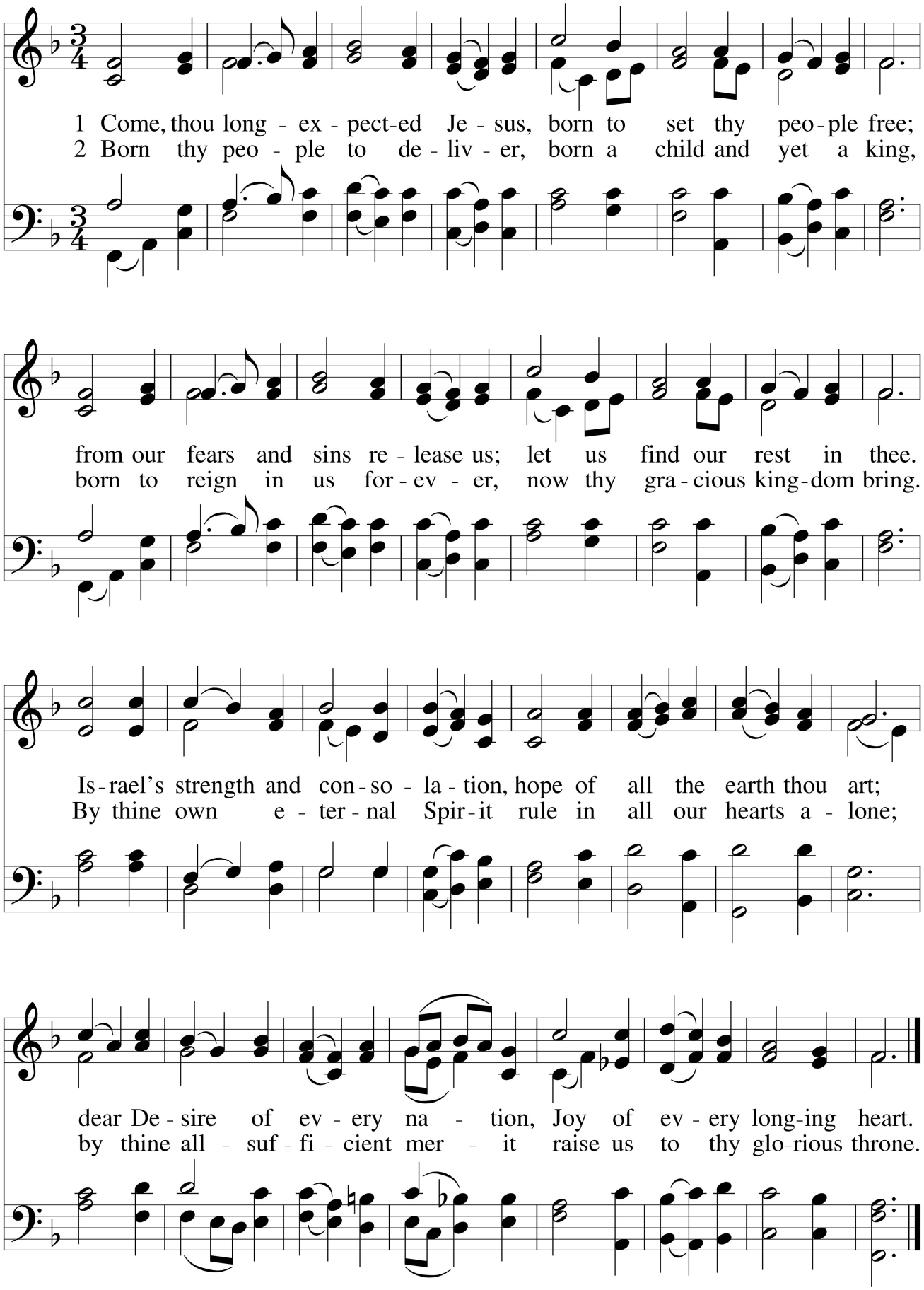
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.
Let us pray:
Our God, your loving kindness, keeps us.
Your mercies are new every day!
Great is Your faithfulness Oh God!
Great is Your faithfulness!
We accept your invitation to gather,
And we have come into Your sacred space,
With open minds and grateful hearts.
In this season of Advent,
May your Grace enable us daily,
To contemplate our journey,
To reflect on Your ways,
To slow down, sit with you,
And learn of You.
For Your yoke is easy.
And Your burden is light.
May we find Your rest!
Amen!

Those who wish may stand

Those who wish may stand

OPENING HYMN

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



WORDS: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)
MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard (1811-1887); arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

HYFRYDOL
8.7.8.7.D.

LIGHTING THE FIRST CANDLE OF ADVENT

Elisabeth Major and Michelle Kemp

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name or attempts to take hold of you, for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God!

CHORAL ANTHEM

The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns, by Michael Larkin

The king shall come when morning dawns And light triumphant breaks.
When beauty gilds the eastern hills And life to joy awakes, And life to joy awakes.
Not as of old a little child, To bear and fight and die, But crowned with glory like the sun
That lights the morning sky, That lights the morning sky.
O brighter than that glorious morn Shall this fair morning be,
When Christ the Lord in beauty comes, And we his face shall see, And we his face shall see.
The king shall come when morning dawns And light triumphant breaks,
Hail! Christ the Lord! Your people say:
Come quickly, King of Kings; Come quickly, King of kings!

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MESSAGE

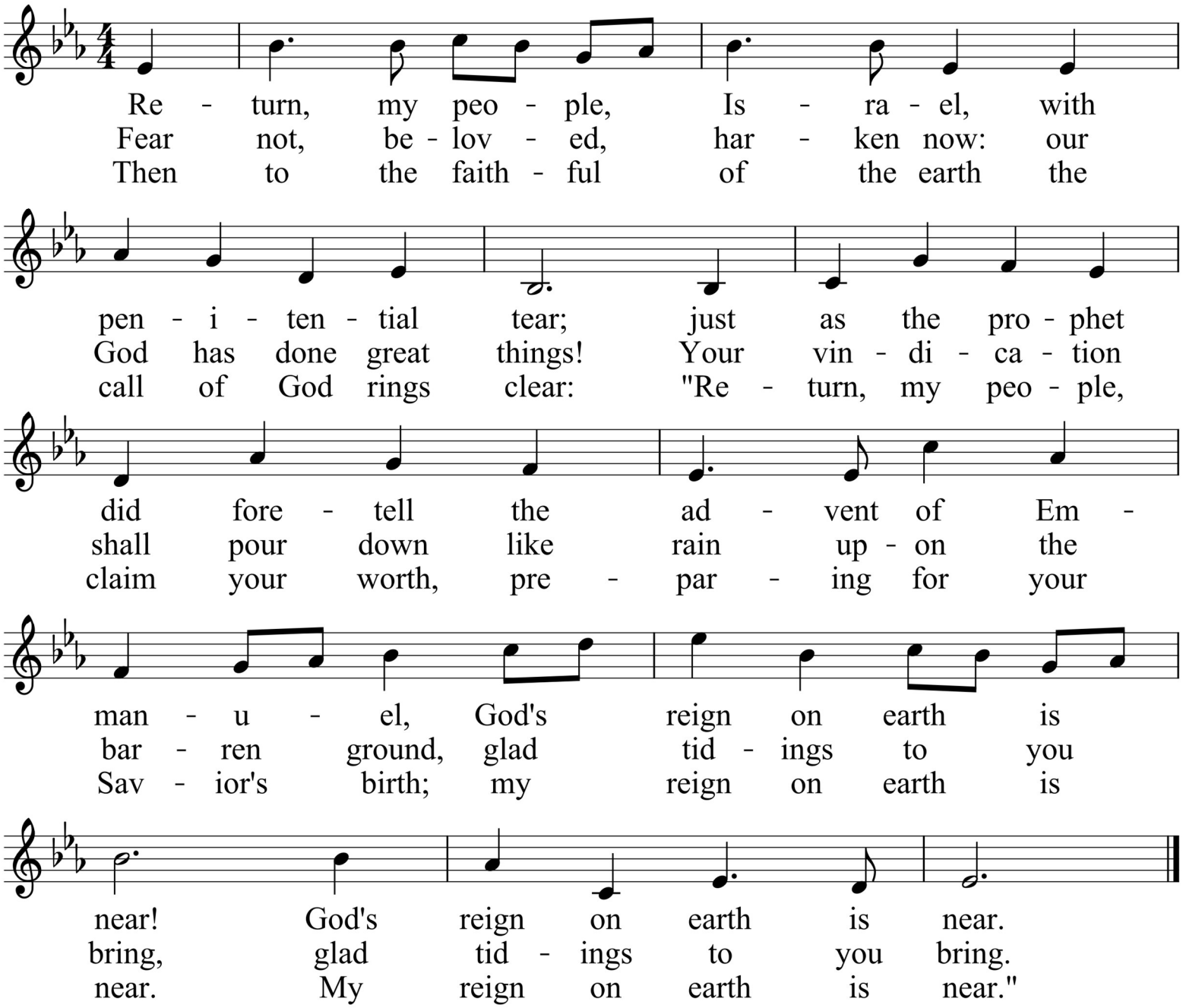
Where are You God?

Those who wish may stand

HYMN OF REFLECTION

Return, My People

Those who wish may stand



Text: © 1993 James F. D. Martin, Tune: REPTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1888

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

After each petition: Leader: Lord in your mercy

All: **Hear our prayer**

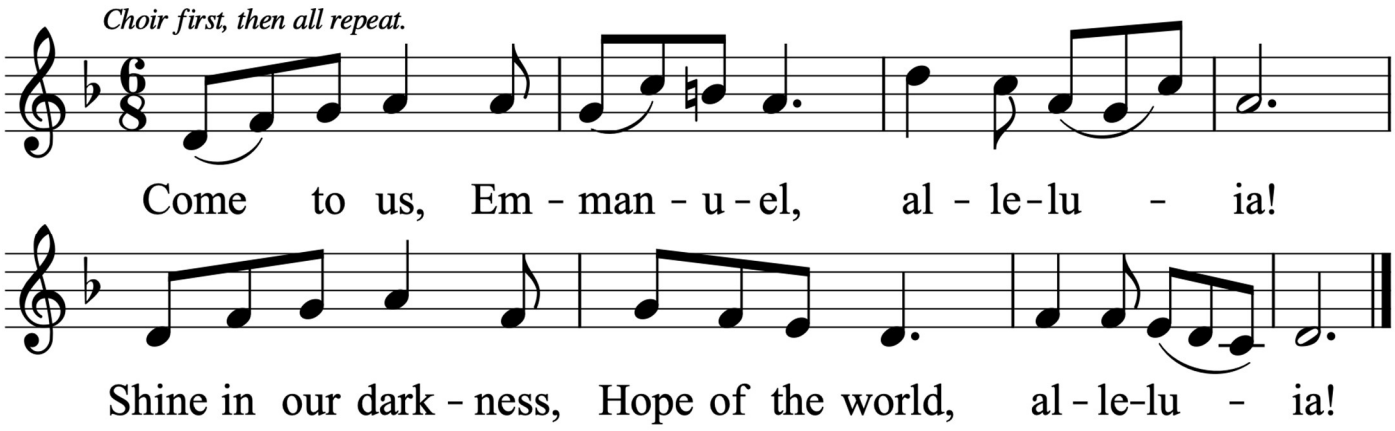
…ending with the Lord's Prayer)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.

OFFERTORY INVITATION

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Chant for Advent, by Steven Van Wye



Text and Music by Stephen Van Wye, © 2015 by GIA Publications, Inc.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father (Creator)**, Son** (Christ), **and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

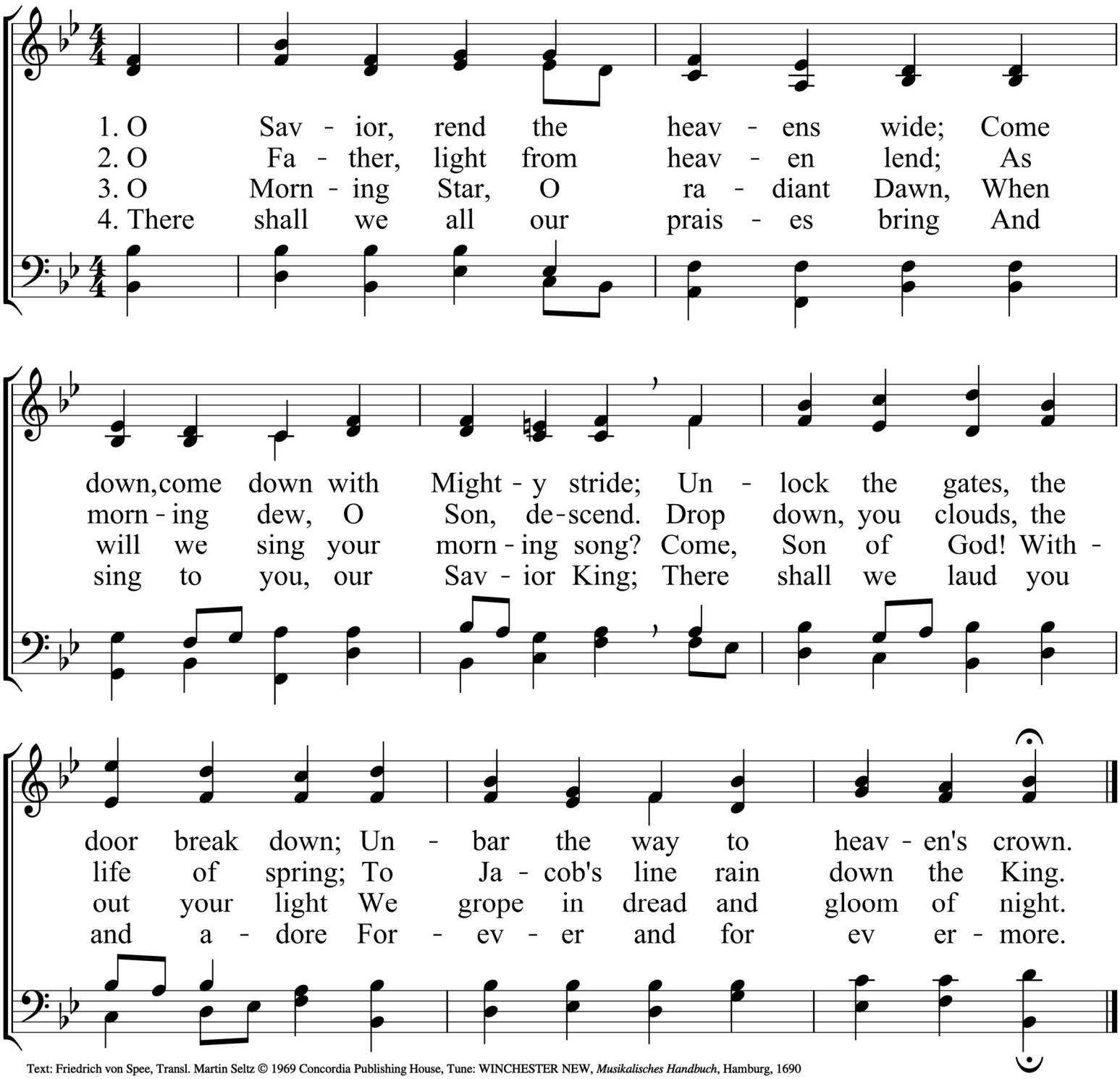
PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Those who wish may stand

CLOSING HYMN

Those who wish may stand

O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide



Text: Friedrich von Spee, Transl. Martin Seltz © 1969 Concordia Publishing House, Tune: WINCHESTER NEW, *Musikalisches Handbuch*, Hamburg, 1690

BLESSING AND SENDING

POSTLUDE

From Heaven Above, by Wilbur Held

Today's Service

Rev. Dr. Becky Emerson	Senior Minister
Dr. Michael Match	Director of Music
John Mattson	Organist
The Motet Choir	Leaders of Song
David Wikman	Liturgist/Prayer
Blake D. Filius	Audio and Video

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Flowers are sponsored by Barb Brott in honor of her husband, Rick's birthday.

Child Care is available on the second floor for infants & toddlers.

Cookies for Sunday Fellowship: Last names beginning with A-D are asked to donate in December. Please provide descriptions to safely avoid any allergies.

Today's Life-long Learning session will meet in the lower level for the first of three discussions about the book *Theo of Golden*.

Directories are at the Welcome Center for members & longtime attendees. Suggested Donation $10.

FCC's 90th Anniversary Candlelight Concert will be Sunday, December 6, 2026 at 4 PM. Come and be delighted by the sounds of our Motet Choir and Orchestra with the Canterbury Ringers! No tickets needed. There will be a freewill offertory at the end of the concert on the table in the Narthex. This helps us with next year's program.

FCC hosts the Muskegon Chamber Choir Concert on Sunday, December 13 at 3 PM. No tickets needed. There will be a freewill offertory.

FCC's Mobile Food Pantry December 5. Volunteers are encouraged. Dress for the weather. Please arrive from 9 to help get set up. Many thanks.

Missions and Service 2026 Giving Tree will be for The Hope Project. To help the young women, victims of human trafficking, The Hope Project needs 30-40 pairs of warm, fuzzy socks, dish soap, shampoo and conditioner, toothpaste and toothbrush, hand cream, TIDE pods and dryer sheets, and yes, did we mention 30-40 warm, fuzzy socks? Anything you are able to contribute will be most welcome and a true blessing to the clients of The Hope Project. **Please bring the socks by Dec. 11 so they can be given at their Christmas Party.**

(continued on back page)

Womens Single Group meets Tuesday, Dec. 1 at 1 PM at the Lake Bluff Grill located in Muskegon Country Club. (2801 Lakeshore Dr. Muskegon) Sign up at the Welcome Center or contact Judy D.

Meijer Simply Give donations will be tripled on Saturday, December 12 at the Holton Rd. Meijer in North Muskegon. More details at the Welcome Center.

Missions & Service Donations for mission of the month – Nov. (One Great Hour of Sharing) can be made to FCC with OGHS in the memo line of a check; online at FCC's website, or directly to the UCC November Mission of the Month.

When the Rabbis Came To Town will be December 9 at FCC. At 6:30 PM. This is an encore of the last play. As before, FCC members may get in free. A $10 donation is suggested. Information is at the Welcome Center or on our website.

Thank you to all who helped with the Thanksgiving Feast. The desserts were delicious. A special thank you to Dave's Kountry Katering for a great feast. Also to Roy and Britta Portenga for the entertainment.

FCC IS AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING COMMUNITY

"We, the people of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, of Muskegon, care for the welfare of our community and welcome everyone, no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey. We welcome into our community people of every age, race, nationality, mental and physical ability, economic and social status, faith background, marital standing, family structure, gender identity and expression, and sexual orientation. We also invite you to share in the life, leadership, worship, fellowship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings, and joys of our congregation as we seek to grow together in faith and love." *Adopted by congregational vote 10/17/21*